

## WASHINGTON CITY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1859.

## Business Notice.

As the business of the Union establishment, in view of the proposed change in its terms, will be conducted strictly on a cash basis, all accounts for the collection of subscriptions for the Union are discontinued. All payments should be made to Agents after this date, except to Messrs. C. L. Johnson, Jr., who is authorized to make collections in Baltimore, Maryland, and Virginia.

The foregoing notice is not intended to include any agents or collectors that may be now or hereafter employed in this city, but those only who have performed such service in other parts of the country.

W. W. WOODCOCK, March 22, 1859—45.

## LAND CLAIMS IN CALIFORNIA.

It is well known to our readers that large quantities of land in California are claimed by private individuals under grants, real or pretended, from the government of Mexico. In 1851 a board of commissioners was appointed to investigate these claims, and to decide which of them were honest and which fraudulent. The law gave a right to the government and to the claimant to appeal from the decision of the commissioners, first to the district court of California, and thence to the Supreme Court at Washington. A close investigation of the cases has shown that, while some of them are genuine, a very large proportion are the basest frauds that have ever been committed since the beginning of the world. The most valuable lands on the globe, in quantities varying from eleven to thirty-three leagues, have been claimed on titles manifestly forged and fabricated. The number of false witnesses who sustain these forgeries by their oaths is not large, for the moral character of the general population there is as high as any other in the world. But, few as they are, they can furnish any amount of perjury which a given state of the market may require.

These frauds, forgeries, and perjuries were so very artful, and some of them so inconceivably bold, that very many passed through the commission, and some of them through the district court, without detection, under the late administration. Mr. Cushing's great ability was exerted with untiring energy to expose and defeat them. He left behind him, when he went out of office, a vast amount of material which has since been used.

Soon after Mr. Buchanan came into power the government determined to use every possible effort in defending its own property, and that of its honest citizens, against the wholesale plunder with which it was threatened by these infamous miscreants. In February last Mr. Edwin M. Stanton was sent out as special counsel. The selection was most judicious and fortunate. As a more lawyer Mr. Stanton is one of the foremost men in America. But, in addition to this, he is honest as steel, as true to his duty as the needle to the pole, and has an energy to which relaxation is almost pain. For such a service it was not possible to find another man in the Union "whose blood and judgment were so well commingled." When he arrived at San Francisco and commenced the investigations, the parties were amazed at his audacity. Uniting to his boldness and fidelity a proper degree of prudence, he followed the tracks of every fraud, and started one after another of those obscene birds from the prey it was gorging. Nearly all of them are now upon the wing circling around his head, and screaming at him with a hatred perfectly natural.

The Mexican records and documents relating to land titles were scattered in leaves and separate papers all over the State. Mr. Stanton gathered them up, bound them together in nearly four hundred folio volumes, and put them in such a condition that any more interpolations is a thing impossible, and even perjury concerning them is almost harmless.

Mr. Stanton was aided in all his labors by the able, diligent, and faithful attorney, Mr. John A. Bland, Col. Della Torre, from whom there is not a more learned lawyer on that coast, an honest man, or a better officer of the court.

With them, in some of the cases, Mr. Randolph was joined. His sound judgment, far-seeing sagacity, fervid eloquence, and chivalrous temper made him worthy to be the associate of Stanton and Della Torre.

The famous cases of Lemaitre (seven in number) were entitled to the earliest attention. One of them covered nearly the whole city of San Francisco—public buildings worth probably ten millions of dollars, and private property estimated at twenty-five millions more.

The ingenuity of this enormous fraud was equalled only by the vast labor and transcendent skill with which it was exposed. When the hearing came on, Messrs. Stanton and Della Torre so completely smashed the whole of its stupendous machinery that its advocates were covered with shame and confusion of face.

The New Almaden Mining Company was a combination of foreigners, British and Mexican, who fraudulently laid claim to a quicksilver mine in Santa Clara county, and got actual possession of it. It was the richest mine in the world. These British and Mexican plunderers made a profit of one million per annum during the eight years they had it. Stanton and Della Torre incontinently dragged them into the district court, compelled them to show their title, and then proved it to be utterly corrupt. The court granted an injunction against the company, and their profits have ceased.

California contains a multitude of mercenary scribblers, whose pens are at the service of anybody that will pay for them. In its present extremity the Alameda Company pays well. As might be expected, these hireling slanderers abuse Mr. Stanton, and the administration which employed him, with all their feeble might. They dare not deny the forgery which their masters have committed, but they insist that it was wrong in the government to take advantage of it. They have impudence enough even to ask for public sympathy on the ground that eight millions of dollars, which this corrupt company has already received, is not a reward large enough to pay them for fabricating a false title. They hope the miners of the country will make common cause with them and warn all who are in possession without a patent from the United States that they may be treated in the same way. We speak by the book when we assure the miners of California that their claims are not regarded by the government as bearing any resemblance to that of the Alameda Company. A man who settles upon the public domain, acknowledging the title of the United States, and claiming only by his occupancy, is as honest as his neighbor and entitled to protection. To put such men in the same category with those who falsely deny the title of the government, and claim for themselves a title which they never got from Mexico, is an insult to the cross

to be borne, and we hope there is not a miner in California who is dull enough not to see and feel it as an insult.

## THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

There are many considerations connected with this great measure calculated to fix the attention of the public mind. All must perceive that the road is a work not only of great national utility in a commercial and business point of view, but of absolute necessity as connected with the immediate operations of the government.

It has been demonstrated that no system of national defenses for the United States can be either complete or efficient without a railroad to the Pacific. No other means of communication will secure the necessary celerity in the transportation of supplies and munitions of war. Moreover, the existence of such a work is a great security against war. We have already incurred expense and liability in the suppression of insurrection in Utah and Indian depredations in Oregon and Washington Territories sufficient in amount to construct a railroad to the Pacific. Had this work been commenced seven years ago, as it should have been, such would have been the influx of American settlers and rifles into that region, that these conflicts never would have occurred—thus saving both treasure and loss of human life.

It is obvious that the theatre of another war on land between this country and any power possessing sufficient navy to embark in it would be transferred to the shores of the Pacific. There are many considerations to produce such a result. The main region between the coast range and the ocean, from San Diego to Puget Sound, a distance of near fifteen hundred miles in length, and averaging at least one hundred miles in depth, is a rich agricultural district, abounding in supplies and tempting booty. East of this tract of country are mountains abounding in gold fields and rich mines for nearly the whole distance. It would be easy for an enemy to effect a landing at several of the fine harbors on this coast, now comparatively unfortified. Once in possession of the country, it would be very difficult to dislodge them. By seizing on the mines, and especially on the extensive quartz mills already in operation, and in the process of erection, England or France would derive from the mines revenue sufficient to defray the cost of the war. In the mean time, the isthmus routes would all be closed, and every port on the Pacific, not in the actual possession of the enemy, in a state of blockade.

Now would a movement of this sort be limited to our own possessions on the Pacific. Either with or without the approbation of the Mexican government, it would embrace in its operations all the northern States of Mexico and the ports in Lower California and Sonora. It cannot be disguised that the whole Pacific coast is at this moment a most tempting prize to any powerful and ambitious ruler.

At present this government has no adequate means of defending its Pacific possessions. With the isthmus closed, and its own ports on the Atlantic and Pacific blockaded, it would have no way of relieving California and Oregon except by a long, tedious, and expensive overland march. The difficulties attending such a movement are properly appreciated and have often been alluded to by the officers of the army. It would be almost impossible to find in the interior of the country, after leaving the Rio Grande, a safe route, sufficient to sustain any great army and force against a well-armed and well-supplied enemy. It would be a march of six months to encounter an enemy already entrenched, amply supplied and in full possession of the country. Mr. Secretary Davis, while at the head of the War Office, in his report upon this subject, said most pertinently and ably:

"In the first years of a war with any great maritime power the communication by sea could not be relied upon for the transportation of supplies from the Atlantic to the States. Our naval power establishment would not furnish adequate convoys for the number of ships which it would be necessary to employ; and storehouses laden with supplies, could not undertake a voyage of 20,000 miles, passing numerous neutral ports, where an enemy's armed vessels, even of the smallest size, might lie in wait to intercept them."

"The only line of communication, then, would be overland; and by this it would be impracticable, with any means heretofore used, to furnish the amount of supplies required for the defence of the Pacific frontier. At the present prices over the best part of this route the expense of land transportation alone for the annual supplies of provisions, clothing, camp equipment, and ammunition for such an army as it would be necessary to maintain there, would exceed \$20,000,000; and to maintain troops and carry on defensive operations under these circumstances the expense per man would be six times greater than it is now; the land transportation of each field twelve-pounder, with a due supply of ammunition for one year, would cost \$2,500; of each twenty-four pounder and ammunition, \$9,000; and of the sea-coast gun would cost \$10,000,000. But the expense of transportation would be vastly increased by a war; and at the rates that were paid on the northern frontier during the last war with Great Britain the above estimates would be trebled. The time required for the overland journey would be from four to six months. In point of fact, however, supplies for such an army could not be transported across the continent. On the coast of water and grass would soon be exhausted by the numerous draught animals required for heavy trains, and over such distances animals could not be carried for subsistence."

Every statesman must be impressed with the fact that from the exposed and isolated situation of California, Oregon, and Washington, they are exposed to constant danger from the policy and ambition of the British government, and have, therefore, the right to demand adequate means of defence. This nothing can effect so cheaply and with such efficiency as a railroad, over which large bodies of troops can be moved with rapidity.

It will occur readily to every statesman that the Pacific region is separated from the rest of the Union by chains of mountains and arid deserts, and without any very strong identity of interests with the other States. At present its commerce is almost as convenient to London and Havre as to New York. It is a country abounding not only in minerals, but in all products calculated to make a people feel that they are in truth independent of other States and nations. It is the first wheat country in the world. With cheap labor, it could produce cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, and tea in great abundance. It abounds in the finest timber in the world for ship-building, and all other purposes. So long as its people are left without any adequate overland communication with the Atlantic, they must be forced to calculate the value of the Union. The ports on the Pacific must command the commerce with Asia and the vast region which that designation comprehends. An independent government would cost the people of the Pacific more than the present arrangement, and with free ports open to the commerce of the world, would greatly enhance their material prosperity.

They have more than once manifested some signs of restiveness under past neglect. During the progress of the late vigilance committee of San Francisco, an independent government was suggested, and a revolution favored by many of its prominent members and supporters. The scheme was indignantly frowned down by a people loyal to the Union. Yet it is necessary that something should be done to produce a greater community of interests and strengthen the bonds between the Atlantic and Pacific. Nothing can effect this but a railroad, which will afford a ready, rapid, and cheap channel of communication, and at the same time fill the intermediate country with an industrious population, dependent, commercially and otherwise, upon the Union.

The various filibuster movements that have proceeded from California have a deeper significance than the transient ambition of a few individuals. The people of the Pacific look with anxiety upon the probable fate of the northern States of Mexico or Lower California, a country completely disorganized, and so sparsely populated that a well-appointed force of 2,000 men would overrun and subdue the whole country. There is more danger than appears on the surface of affairs that a movement which should combine the whole of our present possessions on the Pacific, and annex to that country Lower California, and the northern States of Mexico, would be not only popular in itself on the Pacific, but eminently successful.

The commencement of a railroad would at once nip all these projects in the bud, and at the same time strengthen the government, and unite fraternal every section of the Union. Neglect, on the other hand, of this great national duty cannot fail to produce not only alienation in feeling, but necessary measures of self-preservation on the part of the Pacific States.

If the vast country on the Pacific were to declare itself independent of this Union, open its ports free, which would send all its gold direct to Europe, adopt a peon law for Asiatic and Indian labor, and thus embark in the growth of cotton, sugar, rice, and tobacco, it would produce a revolution in American commerce and prosperity to which the history of the world affords no parallel. And yet all this is not only practicable, but of easy solution and accomplishment.

Let our statesmen, then, elevate themselves above the miserable factions of the day, and secure, while in their power, the great interests of a vast empire. It is the interest of all political parties to put this question out of the way at the present session of Congress. We predict that the party that blunders in relation to it is wrecked for the next ten years. It is a question which cannot be controlled by the politicians. The republican and American parties are obnoxiously committed to it. The democratic party took strong ground in favor of the measure in the Cincinnati Convention of 1856. President Buchanan avowed himself its champion in the canvass of 1856, and has not failed in every annual message to Congress to urge its consummation upon the federal legislature. It is too late, therefore, for either of the great political parties to tamper with the subject, or evade the issue by any artful device. Presidential aspirants should dig their political graves along the track of the Pacific railroad. It is certain to pass along, and it will not be pleasant to have their enemies pointing out their tomb-stones from the cars of the first through-train.

It is well known that Mr. Wilson and several of his republican associates voted against the road in the last session of Congress. The result of the recent California election shows how their course was appreciated in that State.

It is a common subterfuge to avow friendship for a measure, and yet always denounce the particular provisions of any bill that can be presented. We think the time has gone by when a member of Congress can pursue that course, and yet palm himself off as a friend of the measure. The road cannot go to every man's house or through every member's district. Neither can any bill, in all its details, entirely satisfy the views of every senator and representative. We should have no legislation on any subject if every project of a law was required to contain that measure of unanimity.

## AGRICULTURAL DIVISION OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

It is elsewhere noted in our columns that a convention of agriculturists has met in this city in compliance with an invitation from the Commissioner of Patents. It is understood that this measure has been adopted in conformity with the purpose expressed in the late report of the Secretary of the Interior "to elevate agriculture, so essential to our wealth and prosperity as a nation, at least to an equality with other pursuits."

## LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FROM MR. LETCHER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1858.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 9th inst., informing me that, "at a convention of the democratic State-rights republican party, which recently assembled in the city of Petersburg," I was "nominally" the candidate for the office of governor of Virginia. With a grateful appreciation of the honor thus conferred upon me by my democratic fellow-citizens, through their representatives in convention assembled, I accept the nomination.

On the subject of national politics it is hardly necessary for me to say more than that I have been identified with the "democratic State-rights republican party" from my youth to the present time. Hoistly convinced that the principles of the party are sound, national, and conservative, and satisfied that its maintenance and success are essential to the preservation of the Union and the rights of the States, I have uniformly advocated its measures and policy, both as a private citizen and a representative of the people.

My views on the subject of State internal improvements were communicated to the convention prior to the nomination by Mr. Garland, of Culpeper county, and it is due to him and myself that I should here reiterate them. I have ever advocated a liberal and enlightened policy, believing such improvements indispensable to the development of the wealth and resources of the State, and to the advancement of the property of the people. I desire, therefore, to see the leading lines now in progress pushed as rapidly as practicable to completion. Lateral lines will follow the completion of the main lines in proper time, as the necessities of the several localities shall require their construction. In granting rights of way, or in projecting new improvements, some regard should be had to the general system which the State has adopted. These views will be faithfully and fairly carried out.

My speeches delivered in Congress, and my letter of last summer to the editor of "The South," explain my position on the slavery question; but, to avoid all misapprehension, I state in language distinct and emphatic that I regard the institution of domestic slavery existing in Virginia and the other slaveholding States morally, socially, and politically right. I trust that I will be found ready to defend the institution, and to resist all encroachments upon it, as any man in the Commonwealth. In doing this I will be defending and protecting my own interests and property, as well as the interests and property of my fellow-citizens.

If the people of Virginia shall elect me to the position

for which I have been nominated by those whom you have the honor to represent, I pledge myself to a faithful and impartial discharge of the duties of the office with reference solely to the advancement of the prosperity, the protection of the rights, and the preservation of the interests, institutions, and honor of our noble old Commonwealth.

For the polite terms in which you have communicated the action of the convention accept my thanks.

I am, truly, your fellow-citizen.

JOHN LETCHER.

James Barbour, James G. Paxton, Nat. Tyler, A. G. Pennington, and John B. Mason, esq., co-nominees.

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1858.

Messrs. Editors: As several of the northern papers have confounded the name of the senator from Texas with that of Matt Ward, of Kentucky, who killed Butler, you will please insert the enclosed slip taken from a Texas paper.

Senator Ward was a delegate from Texas to and a vice president of the Cincinnati Convention. He is one of the most estimable men in or out of Texas.

Very truly, &c.,

MR. MATT WARD.—A correspondent of the "Piney" furnishes a brief notice of the life of Hon. Matt Ward, the recently-appointed senator from Texas. From this article it appears that he was born in Ellert county, Georgia. Soon after his father's family emigrated to Madison county, Ala., where he grew up to manhood. He had the advantages of a good academy, where he learned the usual branches of the English tongue and the Latin language.

On coming to the age of manhood he adopted the profession of a teacher for two years; studied law; was married, and soon lost his wife, when he emigrated, in the fall of 1836, to the republic of Texas, and settled on Red river. In 1841 he was elected to a seat in the Congress of the republic, and was re-elected for several successive years up to the time of his admission as a State.

After annexation he was a member of the State senate. In the mean time he was successful in business as a merchant. He was a delegate from Texas to the Baltimore Convention that nominated Mr. Pierce; also delegate to Cincinnati Convention.

In 1856 Col. Ward was chosen president of the democratic State Convention at Austin, and presided with entire satisfaction over the debates of that tumultuous body. At the same time he was chosen a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati that nominated Mr. Buchanan.

HON. JOHN S. PHELPS.

[From the N. Y. Sunday Atlas.]

The gentleman whose name heads this article is now the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the national House of Representatives, and his eminent fitness for the situation may be known from the single fact that already, and within two weeks from the appointment of the committee, all the general appropriation bills have been reported, and two of them have passed the House. This is unprecedented, and when it is borne in mind that every item is well considered and compared with the estimates, the work of the committee will be seen to have been accomplished with a rapidity and a judiciousness of experience and capability, and of course they are entitled to their share of praise, but the business is very much regulated by the chairman. Mr. Phelps is a resident of Missouri, has been for nearly fourteen years a member of Congress, and has always given a faithful and devoted attention to the public business.

The national treasury is nearly exhausted, and, from present appearances, it will be entirely so; but we are much mistaken if Mr. P. and his committee will not be found ready and willing to supply it from the legitimate sources, and in such manner as will satisfy the people of every portion of the nation, and who are not disposed to act on a basis of discontent. Mr. P. is properly appreciated as one of the most distinguished statesmen of the nation, whose continuance in public life, in his present or some more elevated position, will be a great honor and prosperity of the country.

## COURT OF CLAIMS.

JANUARY 3, 1859.

In the case of the children and heirs of Dr. James Johnston, the opinion of the court adverse to the claim was delivered by Judge Blackford. Mr. Justice Lovine delivering a separate opinion concurring therein. Justice Seabright dissenting.

Judge Blackford delivered the opinion of the court in the case of the heirs of George Yates—adverse.

Adjourned to 12 m., to-morrow.

## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Monsieur Belley has published a bulky pamphlet of 176 pages on his famous scheme, which, he announces, he intends to submit to the Emperor.

Lieut. Strain, who died on the Isthmus, was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was a nephew of Judge Grier, of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Dr. Holmes, the famous "antocrat of the breakfast table," has recently been delivering public lectures at New York, where he was treated with high consideration.

Lord and Lady Bury, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Hon. Sam Houston, and Capt. Samuel Jones, U. S. A., are at Willard's Hotel; Capt. Imman, U. S. N., is at the Kirkwood Hotel.

Ullman, the open-manager, has stopped his advertisement in the *Evening Star* because the editor of that paper will not "stop a dredging box full of compliments and dust with a very musical notice."

John Kelley, the new sheriff of New York city and county, has given as his sureties Collector Schell and James Conner, (type-founder). The office is said to be the most lucrative one in the United States.

Horace Greeley's friends complain that he is overruled by Charles A. Dana in the New York Tribune, and made to play a subordinate part in the editorial management. This is said, may induce him to leave the Tribune and take charge of the Century.

J. W. Walcott, of Boston, who figured here as a conspicuous witness, is about to take up his residence in New York, where he will devote himself to the banking and brokerage business. What became of "that money" has never been ascertained.

T. F. Meagher will commence his course of lectures on Central America at Charleston, South Carolina, about the 17th inst. His consummate powers of combining fact with fancy, and of mingling poetry with description, carry one along with him as he "travels o'er again" sands and swamps, plains and mountains, cannot fail to please.

Mr. Wendell Bollman, of Baltimore, is at present engaged in the island of Cuba in erecting for the Spanish government an iron suspension bridge. He is also building upon a plan of his own an immense railroad station-house at Havana, the roof of which is supported upon the same principle as his suspension bridge.

Benini is passing the winter in Paris, where he gives a weekly musical party—Albini, Grieg, Penco, Pizzolli, being his songsters. By the way, they say Pizzolli has lost since she got back to Paris all the Yankee dollars she put into her pocket. "From delicate attachment" is the enigmatical phrase used in describing the cause of her financial ruin.

The Countess Montalembert (wife of the French count) is a woman of distinguished mind, figure and manner, and possesses of considerable beauty—the superior kind of beauty which consists of intelligence, accomplishment, and information; talks freely and well; speaks English fluently, but with a decided foreign accent. Altogether, she is a woman who would exert a strong influence over a sensible man who loved her. She is a niece of General Lafayette.

Lieut. Andrew Jackson, U. S. Army, has been appointed assistant tutor in Spanish at the West Point Military Academy, retaining his rank. This is the first American to whom such a post has been assigned, and it is said that Lieut. Jackson is one of the finest Spanish scholars in the country. He entered the army during the Mexican war, in a company of volunteers from Petersburg, Virginia.

The Duke of Calabria, son of the King of Naples and heir to the throne, is, according to a correspondent of the *Courier des Etats Unis*, now twenty-two years old, and is something of an oddity. Few persons, even in Naples, know him by sight. He lives in a very retired way, and never travels, the only excursions he has made so far having been to Genoa and back of Naples. His character is so grave and reflective that his physiognomy would announce a man of thirty rather than twenty-two years. He talks but little, even with his father, but is less reserved with his mother. He is never presented to the foreign ambassadors, and only the ministers of the kingdom know him. The Neapolitan courtiers do not know his appearance, and will modify the character of the Duke of Calabria, who may with reason be called the Duke of Calcutta.

## NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

## Intelligence by the Overland Mail.

St. Louis, Jan. 3.—The overland mail of the 6th ult. has arrived. The coaches brought six passengers, including Miss Emory.

The previous accounts from the Oila gold mines are confirmed, and there is said to be considerable emigration to Sonora from California.

The Utah mail of the 26th of November brings additional intelligence respecting the meeting of the United States district court on the 23th. It is intimated that Brigham Young has been summoned to answer to the charge of false imprisonment of Gentiles, nor has Major Crossman, as has been reported, left for "the States."

The snow on the mountains was very deep, and the weather severe; consequently, there was great suffering among both men and animals.

The Sioux were joining the Cheyennes against the Payettes.

Gold has been discovered on a small lake near Ash Hollow. Ninety dollars' worth was collected in the course of a few hours by the wagon-master.

## From New Mexico.

St. Louis, Jan. 3.—The New Mexico mail of the 13th ult. has arrived.

The Navajo Indians were at the latest advices making all restitution in their power, in order to secure peace. The roads were very bad, owing to snow and to heavy rains.

## The Yacht Wanderer.

AVONDA, Jan. 3.—The yacht *Wanderer* was consigned to Mr. Duke, located that he visited the negroes on Mr. Montmolini's plantation, sixteen miles up the river. They could not speak English, but spoke Spanish. He could not say they were Africans. The prisoners were committed for trial.

## Will of the Late H. L. Ellsworth.

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 3.—The late H. L. Ellsworth bequeathed all of his property, excepting one hundred thousand dollars, to Yale College. It is supposed that the college will thus obtain seven hundred thousand dollars.

## Staten Island.

New York, Jan. 3.—The military have been withdrawn from Staten Island by order of Gov. Morgan.

## Financial.

New York, Jan. 3.—Stocks are heavy—Chicago and Rock Island, 59; Illinois Central shares, 68; La Crosse and Milwaukee, 23; New York Central, 84; Milwaukee and Mississippi, 124.

## Markets.

New York, Jan. 3.—Cotton is quiet—sales of 800 bales; upland, 12 9/16 to 12 11/16. Flour is firm—sales of 9,000 barrels; State, \$4 25 to \$4 50; Ohio, \$5 40 to \$5 55. Wheat is firm—sales of 16,000 bushels; southern red, \$1 10 to \$1 20; white, \$1 30 to \$1 35. Corn is firm—sales of 8,500 bushels; mixed, sold at 78 to 80 cents; white, 75 to 76 cents; yellow, 73 to 75 cents. Pork is dull—new mess, \$17 50 to \$17 60. Lard is firm at 11 1/2 to 11 3/4. Whiskey is quiet at 24 to 25 cents. Sugar is buoyant, with an advance of 1/4—Orleans, 62 1/2 cents. Molasses is quiet—Orleans, 37 to 38 cents. Spirits of turpentine is firm at 49 cents. Rosin is firm at \$1 55. Rice is quiet.

## GLEANINGS FROM THE MAIL.

The "down-east" people are enjoying good sleighing, and have hauled their sleds over the ice.

The opal trade of Baltimore last year amounted to \$1,000,000, and employed 750 persons. Over 5,000,000 bushels were received in the city.

The works and other property of the New England Worsted Company, at Saxtonville, Mass., have been purchased by Mr. Simpson, of Boston, for \$385,000.

A duel occurred at El Paso, Texas, on the 7th of November, between John Gillet, merchant, and Samuel Magoffin. Weapons, rifles. Result—nobody hurt. A basket of champagne celebrated the reconciliation.

The first number of George Roberts and Park Benjamin's new paper, the *Contadante*, appears on Thursday. An unusual step has been taken by the publisher, in making it as direct as large as the *Journal of Commerce*, instead of producing it in quarto form.

Cheap and abundant as money is in this country it is much cheaper in Europe. In London the Bank of England's rate of discount is only 2 1/2 per cent. At Paris the rate is 3 per cent; at Hamburg, 2; at Frankfurt, 4; at Amsterdam, 3; and at Brussels, 3 per cent.

Thirty-four years ago Randall McGavock was mayor of Nashville—a village containing about 4,500 persons, without even a trolley approaching 16. Now, his grand nephew, Randall W. McGavock, is mayor of a city with 30,000 inhabitants—approached at three points by railroads, and with several others in contemplation.

Last Thursday witnessed a singular snow-storm in the vicinity of Fulton, Oswego county. The storm commenced about 8 a. m., and continued for 24 hours, to the depth of 24 to 3 feet. It covered a belt of land only six miles wide, deepest in the centre, from Ontario to Oneida lake.

The farmers are organizing along the line of the La Crosse railroad for the purpose of raising the foreclosure of the mortgages which they executed and exchanged for stock. They proceed upon the presumption that these mortgages will be declared null and void by the courts.

There lately died in Paris an old lady, Mme. Champagnere, a daughter of the celebrated Mme. Roland, the life and soul of the Girondin section in the National Assembly of France. By her will the Imperial Library obtains all the MSS. memoirs of her illustrious mother, penned while in prison awaiting the guillotine.

Victor Emmanuel, King of Sardinia, (the only constitutional monarch in Italy), is preparing to take the field in behalf of the Liberals of Lombardy and Venice, and assist them in throwing off the Austrian yoke. It is presumed that Louis Napoleon's increasing need of a topic of public interest outside of France will decidedly favor a movement of this kind.

WEST FLORIDA ANNEXATION TO ALABAMA.—The West Florida journals are strongly advocating the annexation of their section of country to Alabama. The matter has gone so far that the Alabama Legislature, at its next session, to negotiate, as he will, either by purchase or cession, for the annexation. West Florida has several reasons for this movement, but the chief is that the railroad system may be extended without restraint, as now imposed by East Florida, which has a preponderance of power in the legislature.

THE KENTUCKY MILITARY INSTITUTE, directed by a board of visitors appointed by the State, is under the supervision of the State, and is a practical example of West Point, and a practical example of an able faculty. The course of study is that taught in the best colleges, but more extensive in Mathematics, Mechanics, Natural Science, Agricultural Chemistry, and Mining Geology; also, in English Literature, Natural History, and Modern Languages, accompanied by daily and regular exercise.

Schools of Architecture, Engineering, Commerce, Medicine, and Law admit of selecting studies to suit time, means, and object of professional preparation, both before and after graduation. The charges: \$100 per half-yearly session, payable in advance. Address the Superintendent, at Military Institute, Paducah, Kentucky, or the undersigned.

J. D. LINDSEY, President of the Board.

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